Miss Dickens reminds Dr. Ross of an episode of abuse, and of how the Supervisor concealed it from him when he "stamped right through the corridor or connection as it was called between [wards] 13 and five ... being determined to stop the cruelty if possible." While Dr. Ross inspected the toilets, looking for the abused patients, "locked in the nurses private toilet there was a patient with two black eyes Miss Middleton had given her." She adds that "I was in there when Rose Middleton said `Now you get in there and if you utter one cheep or make one move I'll kill you'." Her story, with its details and its integration into the physical layout of the Asylum, seems convincing.

One day the Supervisor asked Miss Dickens to clean the windows in the sitting room. Lining up to get clean cloths, Miss Dickens got into a conversation with a male patient, also lining up, about the "new" Reception Hospital, from which the man had recently been admitted. Miss Dickens reminisced over "the days when I was put in jail for insanity, as they had no reception hospital then." Supervisor Middleton, overhearing her, observed that "`you would not have been there if you had not been a bitch'."

Miss Dickens was still being discharged and readmitted throughout the 1920s. She was readmitted on March 27, 1922. Her correspondence indicates that she was preoccupied by the same sort of things that had worried since about 1900. She too seems to have become a part of the historical consciousness of the place, although to Dr. Clare she seems to have become merely a nuisance. On May 2, 1926 she accuses him in a letter to Inspector W.W. Dunlop 1926 (her 18th re-admission) of complaining to her brother that she "was alwyas interfering in his [Dr. Clare's] affairs, and that half the nurses wanted to resign when they heard I was coming back here." The letter is addressed to Inspector Dunlop as himself a prisoner, not in an asylum but in gaol, where Miss Dickens vows never to desert him, in consideration of all his investigations on behalf of herself and other patients. She reminds him that "even if you did take some moneys," he should still be happier than "those people now at liberty who murdered helpless patients." Inspector Dunlop was indeed himself "committed," or rather sentenced (along with a junior inspector named F.C. Williams) to terms in Kingston Penitentiary, for "stealing public money."[cxxxv]

It seems fitting that Miss Dickens knew the Highchurch family, and was a friend of the daughter who died of erysipelas in 1923 (see previous chapter).